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## Dairy

# Nygren crowned Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador

By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN  
Capital Press

SALEM — Krisarah Nygren, 19, was crowned the 2022-23 Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador on May 21.

Oregon Dairy Women, a non-profit volunteer organization, has run the Dairy Princess Ambassador program since 1959 to advocate for the state's dairy industry. The Dairy Princess Ambassador's role is to travel around Oregon giving presentations about the dairy industry and nutritional benefits of dairy at schools, fairs and community events.

Nygren was crowned this year's Princess Ambassador in part because of her "phenomenal public speaking skills," according to Oregon Dairy Women.

"Krisarah (Nygren) is a really well-rounded individual," said Jessica Jansen, president of Oregon Dairy Women. "She has great skills



Courtesy of Katelyn Nicole Photo  
Left, Krisarah Nygren, 19, 2022-2023 Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador. Right, Mariana Llamas, 19, Alternate Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador.

in public speaking and advocacy work."

Jansen said she's confident Nygren will be an excellent educator and representative for the industry.

Nygren, however, wasn't always confident in public speaking. "Growing up, I had very severe

social anxiety," said Nygren.

Then, during her freshman year of high school, Nygren joined her school's FFA program, which proved transformational, igniting in her both a love for public speaking and a passion for agriculture. Nygren competed in FFA's Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Milk Quality and Product Evaluation Career Development events.

"(FFA) absolutely flipped a switch in me," she said.

Nygren wasn't raised on a farm. She had always been interested in agriculture — "I felt like I should have grown up on a farm," she says — but it wasn't until she joined FFA that she had the opportunity to pursue that interest. Jansen, of Oregon Dairy Women, said the fact that Nygren wasn't born into agriculture but developed a love for it as a teenager made her a unique candidate.

"Some people think you have to be from a dairy farm or dairy family to be a dairy princess," she said.

"But we need a wide breadth of people who are advocating for dairy."

Nygren graduated from Santiam Christian High School in 2021 and is now dual-enrolled at Linn Benton Community College and Oregon State University. She will enter her sophomore year this fall with a major in agricultural sciences and double minors in political science and agricultural education.

Nygren said she aspires to advocate for agriculture in policymaking. She referenced Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis, R-Albany, as an example of someone she would like to emulate who shapes policies and advocates for rural communities.

Upon being crowned, Nygren received an educational scholarship. Representing Linn and Benton counties, Nygren was one of five county dairy princess ambassadors vying for the state title.

"I think it was one of the most competitive contests we've had — such a high caliber of women com-

peting," said Jansen, of Oregon Dairy Women.

Representing Tillamook County, Miriana Llamas — pronounced "Yahmas" — was named Alternate Dairy Princess Ambassador and will assist in promotional events during 2022-23.

Llamas grew up tagging along with her dad, the head herdsman veterinarian for Misty Meadow Dairy. Llamas is now a student at Oregon State University pursuing a joint degree in agricultural sciences and agricultural and food business management with a minor in agricultural education. Her goal is to become a high school agriculture teacher.

Llamas' first language is Spanish, and she said she's excited to give presentations to Hispanic students.

"I think that demographic has never been reached through this program, and that is my biggest goal and that is what I'm most excited about," she said.

## Shipping problems continue to plague U.S. dairy; some ports make progress

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

The U.S. dairy industry lost an estimated \$1.5 billion in sales last year because of shipping problems clogging U.S. ports — and the headaches continue.

"Shipping has become a major challenge, unlike anything we have seen in the past 20 years," said Gabriel Sevilla, vice president of sales and marketing for Proliant Dairy Ingredients, headquartered in Ankeny, Iowa.

The days of expediently filling and shipping an order are gone. Each transaction has to be handled at least 20 times before it reaches the customer, and Proliant needs a lead time of six weeks, he said during the latest "Dairy Livestream" podcast.

"Port congestion and rail congestion has been a major, major problem, and not only in the U.S. but internationally," he said.

The ports of Singapore and Hong Kong were highly congested, and the Port of Manila — which is one of Proliant's major destinations — was so congested that shipping lines canceled all or most of their shipments there, he said.

As a result, the agricultural trans-shipment ports at Singapore and Hong Kong redirected barges that Manila could accommodate to other, more profitable locations, he said.

"The shipping lines did not want their ships having to wait around a month or two to be unloaded in the port of Manila," he said.

With Singapore and Hong Kong congested, the company has rerouted some of its shipments to other ports in China. But Shanghai has been in lockdown for over a month because of COVID-19, and 600 to 700 ships there are waiting to be unloaded, he said.

There's also been issues with weather and port and rail strikes that have caused the company to reroute, he said.

"Any little thing that happens makes everything very, very complicated in the supply chain," he said.



Associated Press File

Terminal 18 at the Port of Seattle. Port congestion continues to be a problem for the export dairy industry.

Port congestion is a global phenomenon. It's not limited to the U.S. East Coast and West Coast, said Andrew Hwang, manager of business development and international marketing for the Port of Oakland.

"So just getting your cargo onto a vessel doesn't mean that you're not going to see problems when that vessel arrives at its destination," he said.

Recently, about 29 vessels were waiting to get into the Long Beach, Calif., complex, the lowest number since maybe December 2020, he said.

"Any respite that we have is welcome. It allows the terminals to catch up," he said.

On May 19, four ships were waiting to get into the Port of Oakland, Calif.

"It means that our labor has been processing the vessels as fast as they can. It means that there is some fluidity in the network," he said.

People are picking up their containers but not as quickly as hoped. Some terminals are above 90% capacity, he said.

What remains to be seen is what happens when China reopens. Shanghai is targeting June 1 to be open fully, assuming there are no further setbacks, he said.

## Oregon DEQ fines Tillamook digester for air quality violations

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
Capital Press

TILLAMOOK, Ore. — The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has fined a manure digester in Tillamook \$20,369 for air quality violations that occurred between Jan. 1, 2019 and Nov. 9, 2021.

DEQ issued the fine April 12 against Farm Power Tillamook LLC, alleging the company failed to consistently operate a combustion flare at its facility on McCormick Loop Drive, allowing methane gas to be released into the atmosphere.

Farm Power operates digesters in western Washington and Oregon, taking cow manure from local dairies and converting it into electricity. Anaerobic digestion works by heating the waste to about 100 degrees, which releases methane. The gas is captured and used to power a generator.

When the generator is down for maintenance or producing more biogas than it can safely process, excess



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press File

A technician for Farm Power Northwest gives a tour of one of the company's generators in Tillamook, Ore. It burns methane from cow manure to generate enough electricity to power 400 homes a year.

emissions are vented through a combustion flare that burns off harmful air pollutants.

However, DEQ identified 13,402 periods when the Tillamook digester's flare was not working when it should have been.

Each 15-minute interval added up to an equivalent of 141 days, or 13.5% of the digester's total operating time.

According to DEQ's findings, operators disregarded warning signals that indicated

the flare was malfunctioning and did not keep records of when the malfunctions occurred or what was done to fix them.

On Feb. 7, 2022, the company sent a letter to DEQ stating it intends to build a shield around the flare to prevent it from failing to light or being blown out by wind, and had retrained operators to respond to text message warnings connected to the flare.

## Milk output down 1.0% in April

By LEE MIELKE  
For the Capital Press

U.S. milk production continued to lag that of a year ago in April, the sixth month in a row to do so, as cow numbers and output per cow paused.

The Agriculture Department's latest preliminary data shows April output at 19.15 billion pounds, down 1.0% from April 2021, and follows a revised 0.4% drop in March. April output in the top 24 producing states totaled 18.3 billion pounds, down 0.9%. Only five of the top 24 producing states showed an increase in milk output.

Revisions raised the original 50 State March estimate by 23 million pounds to 19.7 billion, 0.4% below a year ago, instead of the 0.5% originally reported.

Farmers added 13,000 cows to the milking string in February, and 22,000 in March, following a 7,000 head revision, hitting 9.4 million head. The April count was unchanged from March, but was 98,000 head below a year ago.

April output per cow averaged 2,037 pounds, unchanged from April 2021.

California output totaled 3.6 billion pounds, down 0.6% from a year ago despite having 2,000 additional cows in the string. Output per cow was down 15 pounds.

Wisconsin was down 0.1%. Cow numbers were

DAIRY MARKETS  
Lee Mielke



down 1,000 while output per cow was unchanged.

Idaho was again unchanged across the board.

Michigan was down 3.4% on 17,000 fewer cows, though output per cow was up 10 pounds. Minnesota was down 1.4% on a 9,000 cow loss, though output per cow was up 10 pounds. New Mexico was down 12.9% on 41,000 fewer cows and a 15-pound loss per cow.

New York was off 0.8% on 6,000 fewer cows. Output per cow was up 5 pounds.

Oregon was up 2.7% on a 20-pound gain per cow and 2,000 more cows.

Pennsylvania was down 2.2%, on 8,000 fewer cows and a 10-pound drop per cow.

Texas remained the nation's No. 3 producer and put 4.7% more milk in the tank than a year ago, thanks to 23,000 more cows and a 20-pound gain per cow.

Washington state was down 5.4% on 12,000 fewer cows and a 20-pound drop per cow.

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